

Public Scoping Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project

USDA Forest Service
Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest
Sierraville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest
Plumas County, California



View from the proposed trail for the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project. Photo by Steve Townley, 2016.

Background

The Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest and the Sierraville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest are proposing the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project.

Outdoor enthusiasts from eastern Plumas County brought forward an idea to encourage multi-use recreation on the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests. Their vision is to use recreation as a way to attract visitors into the area to improve the local economies within the broader region. Recreation can be used as a tool to drive enthusiasm of an area and to bring in more business that would not typically be present. Proposed activities include construction of approximately 20 miles of trail in the vicinity of Beckwourth Peak on National Forest System lands. The forests are seeking input on the proposed trail and additional recreational opportunities within the area.

The Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project is located immediately south and east of Portola in Plumas County, California (Figure 1). The project area includes National Forest System lands on the Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District and on the Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District. The project area occupies portions of Township 22 North, Range 13 East, Sections 13, 14, and 22-24; Township 22 North, Range 14 East, Sections 5-9, 17, and 18; and Township 23 North, Range 14 East, Section 31, Mt. Diablo Base Meridian.

Public Involvement

The Forest Service is engaging the public and will be collaborating with interested parties

throughout the planning process. A public notice of initiation of the scoping period was published in *The Portola Reporter* on **October 4, 2017** and *The Mountain Messenger* on **October 5, 2017**. Scoping letters and maps were mailed out to potentially interested parties, including local landowners, tribes, and organizations that have expressed interest in similar projects. The Forest Service requested that comments be received by **November 6, 2017** so that any issues may be identified early in the planning process. The interdisciplinary team will review all comments received.

Purpose and Need

The Forest Service has evaluated desired conditions relative to site specific conditions present in the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project. Desired conditions include having access and recreational activities available to the public in the vicinity of Beckwourth Peak.

Desired conditions are informed by Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Plumas Forest Plan 1988) and the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Tahoe Forest Plan 1990) as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Record of Decision (SNFPA ROD 2004). Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, page 4-25 of the Plumas Forest Plan, provide trails for public, outfitter/guide, and administrative uses.

The following discussion of the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project purpose and need for action describes the proposed activities in detail.

Objectives

The objectives for this project are to:

1. Provide recreation access to the Beckwourth Peak area on the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests.
2. Provide additional recreation opportunities which may relieve recreation pressure in other heavily-used areas.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service is proposing to construct approximately 20 miles of National Forest System trail in the vicinity of Beckwourth Peak. The trail would be designed for non-motorized use and would accommodate all non-motorized users including hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Proposed trailheads would be located in the City of Portola and adjacent to the Nakoma Golf Resort/Gold Mountain Community. Coordination has been occurring and would continue to occur with City of Portola and the Nakoma Golf Resort/Gold Mountain Community about trailhead specifications.

Decision Framework

Preliminary information indicates that the Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project activities may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because there are no anticipated extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment, and the proposed activities fit into an established category. The proposed activities fall within the scope and intent of the following categorical exclusion category:

- 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1). Construction and reconstruction of trails.

Responsible Official

The Beckwourth and Sierraville District Rangers are the Responsible Officials for this proposed action. The responsible officials will decide what actions to include, whether the proposed action meets the requirements to be categorically included from analysis under an EA or EIS, and

whether to adopt and implement the proposed action, analyze additional alternatives, or take no action with respect to the Beckwourth Recreation Peak Project.

How to Comment

Specific written comments on the proposed project would be most useful when received by **November 6, 2017** so that they can be considered early during project development and analysis. The Forest Service will consider your scoping comments to help identify issues associated with the project.

Submit electronic comments to: **comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@fs.fed.us**

Comments submitted electronically must be in plain text (.txt), rich format (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), or an email message. Please include “**Beckwourth Peak Project**” in the subject line.

Written comments may be mailed to: Matthew Jedra, Beckwourth District Ranger and/or Quentin Youngblood, Sierraville District Ranger, c/o Lynée Crawford, Beckwourth Ranger District, 23 Mohawk Road, PO Box 7, Blairsden, CA 96103; by fax 530-836-0493, or delivered in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

Contact Information

For more information regarding this project, contact Steve Townley, project leader, at (530) 836-7126 or Lynée Crawford, Acting District NEPA Planner at (530) 836-7119 or lyneecrawford@fs.fed.us.

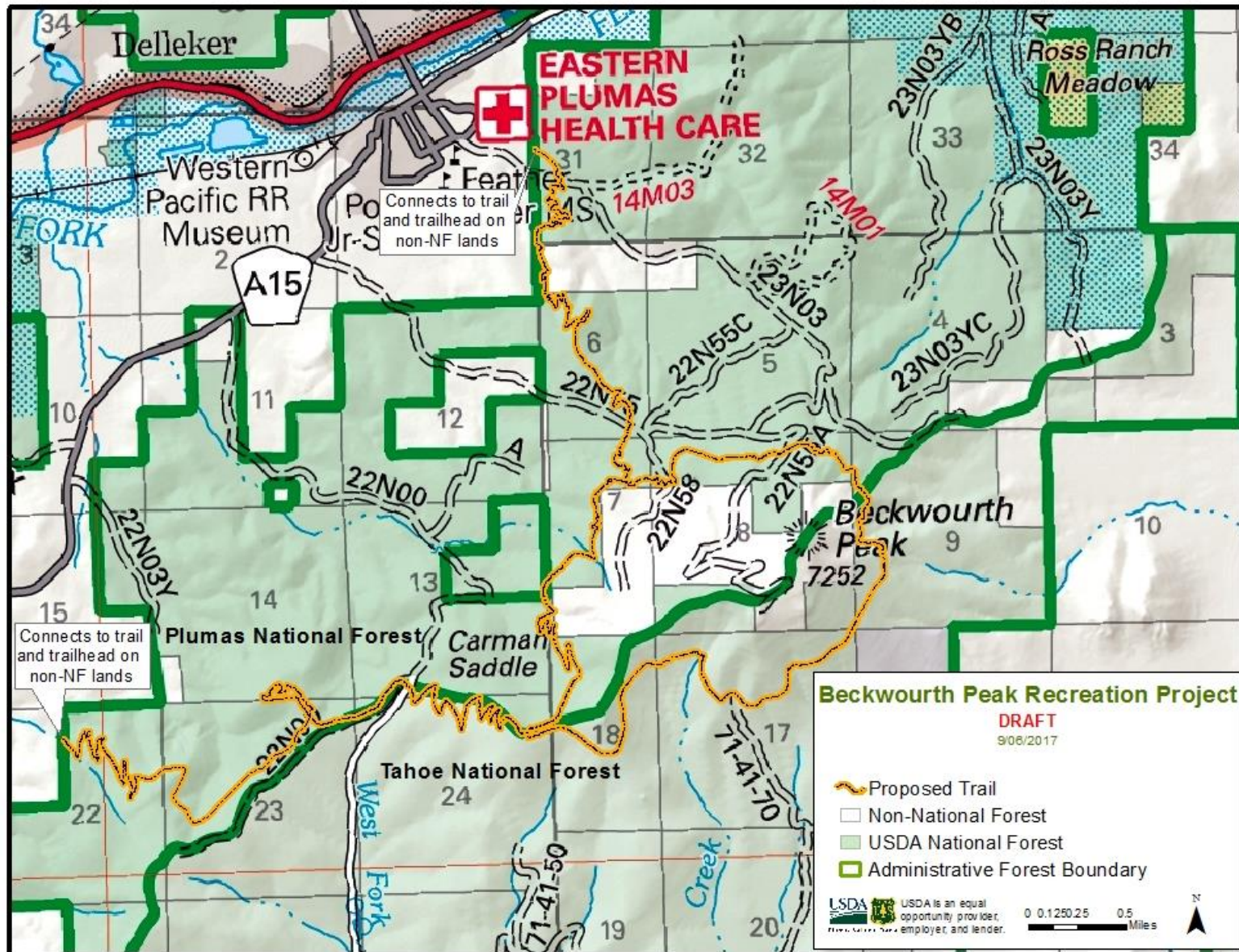


Figure 1. Beckwourth Peak Recreation Project - Area of Proposed Activities.